



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BOLIVIA

SUPPORT TO BENI

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government has a broad assistance program in Bolivia that supports the Bolivian government's National Development Plan.



Responding to a request by the Government of Bolivia, the US Government provided humanitarian aid to Beni, helping to mitigate the impact of flooding in 2007 and protect the health and welfare of Bolivian families.

Through its official foreign assistance agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government supports projects in 15 municipalities in the Department of Beni. Our projects seek to reduce poverty through enterprise development and increased productivity, improved access to health care for the poor, and disaster response. USAID programs create opportunities for marginalized populations, promoting their social, political, and economic inclusion.

1. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POPULATION

The municipalities of the Department of Beni have varying levels of poverty and development needs. USAID continues to support financial institutions through the electronic transactions system "ServiRed" to provide more opportunities for people to conduct transactions and facilitates the sending and receipt of remittances at competitive rates. The introduction of expanded financial services includes the inauguration of a new financial institution branch in San Joaquin during 2008.

2. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF BOLIVIANS

USAID seeks to improve the health of underserved Bolivians by helping municipal health networks and local NGOs deliver high quality services. Our programs fully support Ministry of Health priorities by improving the management capacities of local health clinics and hospitals and by increasing the quality of services provided. Projects are tailored to the development needs in Beni, focusing on prevention activities, control of infectious diseases including yellow fever and malaria, and ensuring that women and children have access to quality care.

With the assistance of USAID, two Bolivian NGOs, PROSALUD and CIES, are expanding the availability of integrated health services to the people of Beni. USAID has also developed a Municipal Matching Fund to help local governments make wise investments to improve the health status of their constituents. In October 2007, five grants for rural municipalities were approved, bringing \$300,000 in USAID support, complemented by municipal matching contribution of \$120,000, to improve access to health care.

3. ENVIRONMENT

Through its support to local and indigenous organizations, USAID promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiverse Amboró-Madidi Corridor which contains 9 protected areas, 9 indigenous groups and covers over 12% of the national territory. The program helps local communities to develop economic initiatives such as ecotourism that provide an opportunity for sustainable incomes, improve environmental and land use planning, and to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through formal and non-formal education.

4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In 2007, the U.S. Government provided more than US \$1 million in humanitarian aid aimed at mitigating the effects of flooding in the Departments of Beni and Santa Cruz. Temporary camps were put in place in Trinidad and Santa Ana, along with corresponding health centers designed to protect the health of people living in the affected areas.

5. EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENTS

With the installation of elected departmental governments in 2005, Bolivians took a significant step to develop accountable, decentralized departmental governments. As it does worldwide, USAID is providing basic institutional strengthening technical assistance and training to Bolivia's departmental governments to help them assume more effectively their new roles in planning, financing, and delivering services to citizens.



Two young USAID beneficiaries during the 2008 floods.